

use which are necessary to protect the environment, insure the public safety, and minimize conflict among users.

(g) Negotiate cooperative agreements, when appropriate, with State or local governments for the enforcement of laws and regulations relating to ORV use.

(h) Coordinate ORV use, projects, activities, designated ORV areas, and all related matters, with the installation environmental committee and environmental office.

§ 656.7 Environmental considerations.

The environmental and related impacts of ORV use will be assessed in accordance with AR 200-1. Coordination with adjacent private and public landowners and managers will be included in the assessment process.

§ 656.8 Guidelines and criteria for evaluation and utilization of Army lands for off-road vehicle use.

(a) *Designation.* (1) Army lands may be designated for one or more types of ORV use in response to a demonstrated need providing there is sufficient suitable area available.

(2) Lands which may not be designated for one or more types of ORV use are:

(i) Areas restricted for security or safety purposes, such as explosive ordnance impact areas.

(ii) Areas containing geological and soil conditions, flora or fauna or other natural characteristics of fragile or unique nature which would be subject to excessive or irreversible damage by use of ORV's

(iii) Areas where the use by a type or types of ORV would cause unequivocal and irreversible damage or destruction as a result of such use; provided, however, that types of ORV not causing such damage or destruction may be permitted to use such areas.

(iv) Areas which are key fish and wildlife habitat as identified under environmental considerations § 656.8(c) (5) of this part.

(v) Areas which contain archeological, historical, petroglyphic, pictographic, or paleontological values; or which constitute de facto wilderness or scenic areas; or in which noise would

adversely affect other uses and wildlife resources.

(vi) Areas in or adjacent to outdoor recreation areas where noise or vehicle emissions would be an irritant to users of the outdoor recreation area.

(vii) Noise sensitive areas such as housing, schools, churches or areas where noise or vehicular emissions would be an irritant to inhabitants.

(viii) Areas or trails set aside for horses and their recreational use.

(3) *Site designation.* Before designating such sites, the capabilities of the ecological factors should first be ascertained in order to determine carrying capacities.

(i) *Area designation.* Area designation offers a greater freedom of movement and is probably preferred by users over trail designation. However, area designation may result in greater environmental damage and cause conflicts with other uses. Therefore, great care must be exercised in designating suitable sites for area use.

(ii) *Trail designation.* Restrictions to designated trails probably constitute a compromise for most ORV users. However, this method is more compatible with the objective of this regulation. Therefore, when it is practicable to designate existing or proposed trails for use of ORV's without environmental despoilment, preference should be given to designating these sites. Trails currently used for hiking, bicycling, or horseback riding will not be designated for concurrent ORV use.

(iii) Use classification.

(A) Areas and trails should be classified as:

(1) Generally open to public with access controlled within manageable quotas, or

(2) Closed to the public.

(B) Where use of ORV's by installation personnel is permitted, exclusions of the public may not be justifiable except under the most compelling conditions.

(b) Zone of use areas and trails shall be located to minimize:

(1) Damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, or other resources of the public lands.

(2) Harassment of wildlife or significant disruption of wildlife habitat.